(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Effects of Adulterated Food on Health

*292. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unbridled use of pesticides and chemicals in the production of food items causes genetic or bio-chemical disorder;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government have neither prescribed any Food Safety Code nor decided to implement sincerely the existing food laws like Fruit Products Order, Milk and Milk Product Order, Vegetable Oil Control Order despite the press reports regarding pesticides residues in soft drinks and mineral water and insect infection in chocolates etc.; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the remedial measures are proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The use of registered pesticides within prescribed limits as per approved guidelines is not likely to cause any genetic or biochemical disorder either in food or in human beings. At the time of registration, besides chemistry, bioefficacy, packaging, toxicity data on acute oral, acute dermal, acute inhalation, mutagenicity, teratogenicity, effect on reproduction, carcinogenicity, toxicity to livestock and Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) are also taken into consideration.

The regulatory orders like, Fruit Products Order, Milk & Milk Products Order, Vegetable Oil Product (Regulation) Order, 1998, have been enacted under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, which primarily regulate licensing and hygiene besides quality specifications and are being Implemented by the respective Departments of the Government of India.

The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and PFA Rule, 1955, prescribes the standards for various foods besides regulating use of food additives, limits food contaminants, and pesticides etc. The role of the central Government is to facilitate the State Governments in implementing the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and PFA Rule, 1955. The actual licensing of manufacturing units and enforcement of the standards under the law is the function of the State Governments. For safety to human Health, maximum residue limits (MRLs) have been prescribed for different pesticides for various foods by Ministry of Health under Rule 65 of the PFA Rules, 1955. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has prescribed MRLs for 71 pesticides and maximum residues limits for another 50 pesticides have been notified for soliciting public comments.

Under the Capacity Building Project launched by the Central Government in October, 2003, support is being provided to the State Governments for strengthening their food laboratories and also for setting up of new food laboratories wherever required. The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, is also being reviewed in order to ensure consumer safety.

Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996

*293. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring amendment in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to make it more effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the recommendation made by the Law Commission in this regard; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER TO LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) yes, Sir. The Government has examined the recommendations made by the Law Commission to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. Steps are being taken to introduce a Bill to amend the Act in Parliment. In order to speed up all arbitration proceedings under the